DOCUMENT RESUME

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ABSTRACT

This Read*Write*Now! activity poster presents, on one side, a colorful image of Arthur the Aardvark encouraging adults and children to share the fun of reading and writing, and, on the other side, 5 fun and challenging activities for reading time. The activities are designed to expand a child's interest in and enthusiasm for reading and writing while also helping to improve these skills. In addition to the activities, there is a brief description of the America Reads Challenge, a monthly calendar of events, and a certificate that can be presented to readers who have reached their reading and writing goals. (RS)

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ED 440 368

America Reads Challenge: Read*Write*Now!

Arthur the Aardvark Activity Poster

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Dear READ*WRITE*NOW! Friend,

Thank you for accepting the America Reads Challenge! You have joined tens of thousands of children, parents, teachers, community and business leaders, librarians, and college students in answering President Clinton's call to have all children read well and independently by the end of the third grade.

We all know that kids who read succeed. We also know it is very important that they read, or be read to, every day. In fact, the research shows that reading with or to a child significantly increases his or her reading ability. The READ*WRITE*NOW! materials were designed to help do just that. Launched by Secretary Riley in 1995, READ*WRITE*NOW! suggests three easy steps to help improve children's reading and writing skills: 1) read or write 30 minutes a day five days a week; 2) learn one new vocabulary word every day; and 3) sign up for and use a library card. In addition, at least one day a week, children should read or write with a learning partner.

This year Arthur, created by Marc Brown, and his family of dedicated readers are here to help children and learning partners. Arthur and his family are shown reading together on the reverse side of this poster. Hang this poster where it will remind you how important it is for families to read together. The poster also provides fun and challenging ideas for your reading time. The activities are designed to expand children's interest in and enthusiasm for reading and writing, while helping them improve these skills.

Additional materials, including reading certificates for children and learning partners, book lists, and helpful tips for reading, are available by visiting the America Reads Challenge Web site at <www.ed.gov/americareads>.

Thank you again for accepting the America Reads Challenge. Your participation today helps to ensure children's success tomorrow.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Riley
U.S. Secretary of Education

ALA American Library Association

William R. Gordon, Executive Director
American Library Association

Pizza Hut

Michael S. Rawlings, President
Pizza Hut, Inc.

William E. Trueheart, President
Reading Is Fundamental,® Inc.

SCHOLASTIC

Richard Robinson, President
Scholastic Inc.

Monthly Calendar of Events

The following are activities to do throughout the year using the Internet or reference materials through your library or school. Ask your parents, the librarian, a teacher or a tutor to help you safely navigate the World Wide Web.

Each suggested written exercise below can be posted by you at **www.ed.gov/americareads/kids.html**, the Just for Kids page of the America Reads Challenge Web site. Or you can share your written activity with your friends, teachers or parents.

January

Newbery and Caldecott Awards Announced

Visit the Association for Library Service to Children's Web site to select a Newbery Award (www.ala.org/alsc/newbery.html) or Caldecott Award (www.ala.org/alsc/caldecott.html) winning book to read and then write a review.

February

Library Lovers Month

Visit this Web site for fun activities related to libraries: www.calibraries.org/librarylovers/kidthings.html. Read a book recommended by your librarian and write a review.

March

Return the Borrowed Books Week

Dr. Seuss was born on March 2, 1904

To celebrate Return the Borrowed Books Week, return books you find around your house to the library. While there, check out a book by Dr. Seuss in celebration of his birthday. Visit www.nea.org/readacross. Write a review of the Seuss book you read.

April

National Poetry Month

National Library Week

Visit your library during National Library Week and let your librarian know how much you appreciate her or him! Visit the National Library Week Web site at www.ala.org/pio/nlw.html to find out the themes and dates of this annual event In celebration of National Poetry Month, read a book of poetry and write a review of it or write your own poem.

May

Arthur's Birthday is May 25

Mother Goose Day is May 1

Celebrate all month long by reciting a rhyme each day. For some fun activities, take a look at the Mother Goose Society Web site at www.gbalc.org/MotherGooseSociety/index.html. Write a review of your favorite collection of Mother Goose rhymes.

June

Summer begins!

Summer is a time to read about a hobby you have or one you would like to explore. Ask your librarian to recommend a book about this hobby, and write a review so that other young people interested in this hobby will know whether you recommend the book. The librarian can also help you find places on the Web about a hobby that might interest you.

July

Going places!

Summer is a great time to travel. Visit many different people and places on the 700+ GreatSites "People Past and Present" section at www.ala.org/parentspage/greatsites/people.html. Read a book set in a place you would like to visit, and write a story about that place.

August

Thanks for All the Gifts Week

A book is an author's gift to you. A good way to say thank you is to recommend an author to a friend. Ask your librarian to help you search the Web for a Web site about the author. Write a recommendation of a book by your favorite author.

September

Library Card Sign-up Month

Ask your parents to help you get your own library card if you do not have one, or if you already have one, take a friend to get a card. While you are at the library, learn what a biography is and write a review sharing the most exciting part.

October

Teen Read Week

Halloween

Celebrate Teen Read Week by visiting the Teen Hoopla site launched by the Young Adult Library Services Association of the American Library Association at www.ala.org/teenhoopla/. Celebrate Halloween by writing about the costume you would put together to represent your very favorite book character.

November

National Family Literacy Day, November 1

Children's Book Week

Celebrate National Family Literacy Day by taking time to read together as a family. Visit the Web site of the National Center for Family Literacy at www.famlit.org/. During the third week of November, celebrate National Children's Book Week by reading a book published in the year 2000. Write a review of the book.

December

Celebrate the holidays!

There are many holidays in December; it is a good opportunity to learn about their meaning for different cultures by visiting www.emtech.net/holidays.htm. Read a book about a holiday celebration and write a review to share.

Read All About It!

Have you ever wanted to conduct interviews like the ones you read in the newspaper or see on television? Ask a friend or family member questions about him/herself, and then write an article based on the answers. Here are some suggested questions to ask:

1. What is your name?

2. What is your job? Or where do you go to school?

3. How often do you read books?

4. What is your favorite book?

5. What makes that book special?

6. Who is your favorite character in a book?

7. What makes that character special to you?

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Meet My Favorite Character

Who is your favorite book character?

Draw a picture of your favorite character in the frame below, and write a caption on the line under the frame.

"My favorite character is _____

because _____."

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It's a Favorite Book!

Write a letter to a relative about a wonderful book you have read.

Dear _____:

Hi! I want to tell you about a book I read and liked.

It is _____

by _____.

It was written in the year _____.

My favorite part is

_____.

I think you would like this book too because

_____.

If you read the book, write me a letter and tell me what you think about it!

Sincerely,

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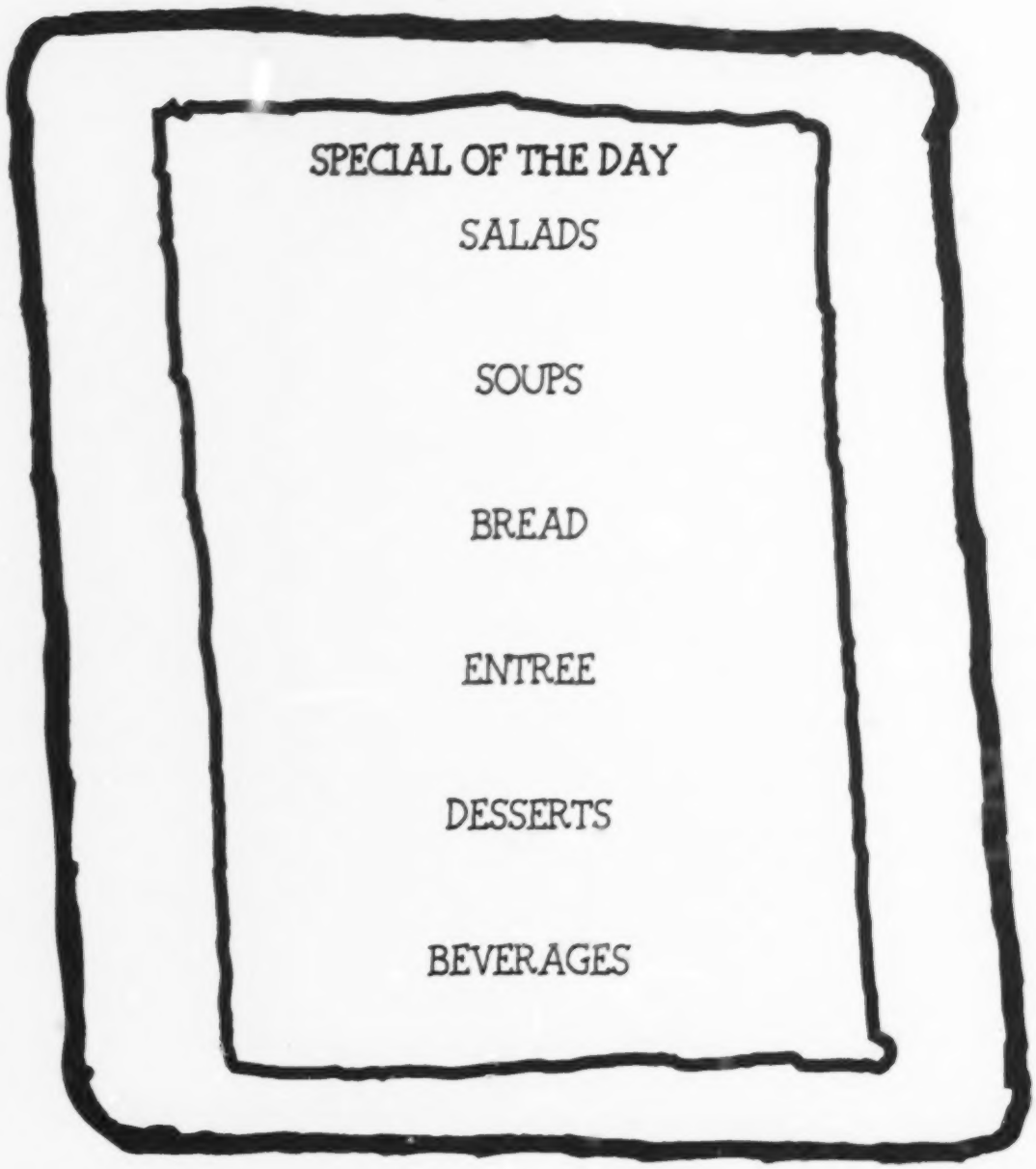
What's for Dinner?

Think of a book title or a book character to name each dish served at dinner. Maybe you are in the mood for Big Anthony Spaghetti or Gryffindor Grits. Make up a menu.



Be a Word Detective

How many new words can you write

from the letters in "Read*Write*Now! with Arthur"?

Here are three to get you started:

dear, wow, ten...

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America Reads Challenge
READ*WRITE*NOW!
Pizza Award Certificate

YOU HAVE MET YOUR GOAL FOR THE READ*WRITE*NOW!
SUMMER READING AND WRITING CHALLENGE.

THIS ENTITLES YOU TO
ONE FREE PERSONAL PAN PIZZA®, ONE TOPPING,
AT ANY PARTICIPATING PIZZA HUT® RESTAURANT.*

Congratulations!

I MET MY GOAL FOR THE READ*WRITE*NOW!
SUMMER READING AND WRITING CHALLENGE.

CHILD'S NAME _____ GRADE _____

SCHOOL NAME _____

LEARNING PARTNER'S SIGNATURE _____ DATE ISSUED _____

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Pizza Hut

* Please present this certificate when ordering. It is valid anytime, during normal business hours, only for the child who has earned the certificate and only when the child is accompanied by a learning partner or a family member. Limit one certificate per child, per visit. No group redemptions or pizza parties are permitted with this certificate. Five-minute guarantee does not apply. Certificate is valid only between August 15, 2000, and September 15, 2000. Cash redemption value is 1/20¢. No duplicate copies of this certificate will be accepted.

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May 2000

Dear Reading Friend:

Thank you for your interest in the America Reads Challenge READ*WRITE*NOW! materials. We are pleased to provide these materials to help all children learn to read well and to inspire their love of reading.

We are also pleased to be continuing our partnership with Pizza Hut® to keep children reading over the summer. Pizza Hut has been a longtime supporter of youth literacy. Its BOOK IT!® National Reading Incentive Program is for children in kindergarten through sixth grade, and its BOOK IT! Beginners® Program is for children in preschool and pre-kindergarten. For more information about these programs, you may call 1-800-426-6548, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., central time, Monday through Friday.

For the last six years, Pizza Hut has been a READ*WRITE*NOW! partner, providing a reward certificate for a free Personal Pan Pizza® to children who reach their READ*WRITE*NOW! reading and writing goals during the summer months. The certificate on the back of this letter can be redeemed for this special treat from August 15 through September 15, 2000, at any participating Pizza Hut restaurant.

We hope you have a summer full of reading and writing fun! Your efforts to help all children become lifelong readers are important to me and to the nation.

Dick Riley

Richard W. Riley
U. S. Secretary of Education